

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 314

By McMillan

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the 60th anniversary of water fluoridation.

WHEREAS, adequate water supply and water distribution systems are essential to the health, safety, and economic welfare of the people of this great State; and

WHEREAS, fluoridation of community water supplies is the single most effective public health measure to prevent tooth decay; and

WHEREAS, January 25, 2005, marked the 60th anniversary of fluoridation of community water, and community water fluoridation continues to be the most cost-effective, equitable, and safe means to provide protection from tooth decay; and

WHEREAS, in March of 1951, Milan became the first city in Tennessee and the second city in the Southeast to add trace amounts of fluoride to the community water supply; today, 95 percent of all Tennesseans who obtain water from community water supplies receive water containing optimum fluoride levels (~1.0 ppm); and

WHEREAS, in 1953, the Tennessee fluoridation program was elevated to division status and granted legislative authority with state appropriations for community water fluoridation in the budget of the Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee became the first state to offer financial assistance to small communities for water fluoridation; enabling more communities to fluoridate their drinking water, these measures resulted in a decrease in the tooth decay rate in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, the State of Tennessee and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention established a National Fluoridation Training Center at the Fleming Training Center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Tennessee became one of the first states to provide information on oral health issues to teachers, parents, children, health professionals, and the general public via the Internet; and

WHEREAS, providing leadership and innovation in the field of community water fluoridation, the great State of Tennessee has evinced a deep commitment to the health of its citizens by providing clean, fluoridated drinking water; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to recognize and celebrate the 60th anniversary of community water fluoridation; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and commemorate the 60th anniversary of community water fluoridation and recognize the oral health benefits fluoridated water provides the citizens of this great State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.